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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/657,956	09/08/2000	Eva Prpic	JP920000170US1	1771
7590	10/20/2005		EXAMINER	
International Business Machines Corporation			ZHONG, CHAD	
Almaden Research Center			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
650 Harry Road				2152
San Jose, CA 95120				
DATE MAILED: 10/20/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/657,956	PRPIC ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Chad Zhong	2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

OFFICE ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment, filed on 09/29/2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goheen, US 5,724,520, in view of Lu et al. (hereinafter Lu), US 5,432,864.

4. As per claims 1 and 5, Goheen teaches a method of accrediting participants to an event, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) collecting information from each of said participants (Col. 2, lines 35-42, obtaining the personal information);
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system (Col. 2, lines 35-50, personal information is stored in airline computer system);
- c) producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants (Col. 2, lines 50-60, wherein the plastic card is not valid until validated at the event, i.e. airport, hotel etc.);
- d) issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants (Col. 2, lines 50-60, issue plastic card to users, e.g. participants);
- e) upon arrival of such a participant at, or proximate an event venue, validating said non-valid pass for the participant, thereby accrediting said participant (Col. 2, lines 60-67; Col. 3, lines 15-30), wherein step e) includes the steps of:

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system (Col. 3, lines 15-30);

Goheen does not explicitly teach securing the pass in a security pouch.

However, Lu teaches securing a pass in a security pouch upon validation, see Col. 9, line 65 through Col. 10, lines 15, wherein each validation station has the capability of preparing the identification card on the spot. It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine teachings of Goheen and Lu because ability to prepare identification card on the fly at the validating station as taught by Lu would improve the efficiency of Goheen by bypassing the mailing step. Furthermore, the lamination of pass within a security pouch will provide additional protection from external environment for the pass.

5. As per claim 2, Goheen and Lu teach upon arrival of each participant, verifying information of said participant before said non-valid pass is validated (Goheen, Col. 3, lines 15-30).

6. As per claims 4 and 7, Goheen and Lu teach ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes (Goheen, Col. 5, lines 55-67; Col. 6, lines 25-45, wherein the class and privileges of classes are reserved in advance for the users, the users use the issued plastic card to verify their access to a particular event).

7. As per claim 8, Goheen and Lu teach said system is a distributed system comprising interconnected servers and workstations (Goheen, Fig. 3).

8. As per claim 9 and 10, Goheen and Lu teach wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants form a first portion of a valid pass (Goheen, Col. 2, line 50-55, the first portion is the physical card itself) and the participants are associated with organizations (Goheen, Col. 2, lines 30-35), and wherein the method of comprises the steps of:

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producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organizations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organization forms a second portion of a valid pass (Goheen, Col. 2, lines 50-55, second portion of a valid pass is the card number encoded within the card); and

issuing the non-valid passes to said organizations, so that the organizations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective organizations, wherein the validating in step e) uses both the first and second portions of the pass (Goheen, Col. 3, lines 15-30, the verification uses the card and the information that's encoded within the card).

9. Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Goheen, US 5,724,520, in view of Lu et al. (hereinafter Lu), US 5,432,864, in view of De La Rue "Angolan National Identity Solution" (hereinafter De la Rue), 1999, and further in view of "Travel Agents", 1997, (hereinafter Travel).

10. As per claims 3 and 6, Goheen and Lu do not explicitly teach a) sending a bulk request to an Immigration Authority, and
b) receiving a status from said department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a form of entry. However, Travel teaches sending a bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants (pg 1, Sun Travel Agency, line 3). Further, De la Rue teaches sending a request to immigration authority and receiving a visa status from said immigration department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa (paragraph 1-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Travel and De la Rue with Goheen and Lu because sending of a bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants as taught by Travel would improve processing efficiency of Goheen and Lu as the immigration authority can process one bulk request rather than individual requests from each participants. Additionally, sending a visa request to immigration authority and receiving a visa status from said immigration department, allowing

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said validated pass to serve as a visa as taught by De la Rue would expand the functionality and security for Goheen and Lu's system by incorporating authentication and validation technique at the immigration check points.

Response To Arguments

11. Applicant's remarks filed 09/29/2005 have been considered but are moot in view at the new grounds at rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "Accreditation of Personnel".

- i. US 6,035,280 Christensen.
- ii. US 4,882,779 Rahtgen.
- iii. US 5,841,886 Rhoads.
- iv. US 6,408,331 Rhoads.
- v. US 6,456,984 Demoff et al.
- vi. US 5,737,701 Rosenthal et al.
- vii. US 6,129,275 Urquhart et al.
- viii. US 4,851,651 Gaucher.
- ix. US 5,949,046 Kenneth et al.
- x. US 6,636,833 Flitcroft et al.

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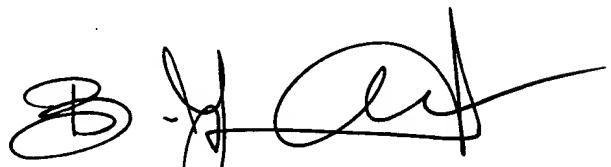
- xi. US 5,548,106 Liang et al.
- xii. "DE LA RUE GIVES SINGAPORE THE 'MIDIS' TOUCH Singapore Immigration & Registration Department Chooses De La Rue Identity Systems to Provide Automated Passport Production System" Dec. 02, 1998
- xiii. "Cards & Personal Identification Technical Committee" July, 2000.
- xiv. US 2002/0070863 Brooking.
- xv. "Armed Services Commissary Regulations" (ASCR), James L. Elmer August 3, 1990.
- xvi. "European Committee for Banking Standards", January 1996.
- xvii. "Meal Card Program", Air Force Instruction 34-241, November 1, 1997.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (571)272-3946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAROENCHONWANIT, BUNJOB can be reached on (571)272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CZ
October 11, 2005



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
PRIMARY EXAMINER